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November 16, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 162 - October 2020

Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

(RI/FS)

CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On October 5, EPA/CPG telephone conversation between Diane Salkie and Robert Law regarding IR FS status.
- On October 9, EPA/CPG telephone conversation between Diane Salkie/Michael Sivak and Robert Law regarding the status of the IR FS.
- On October 14, EPA/CPG telephone conversation between Diane Salkie and Robert Law regarding IR FS status.
- October 22, EPA/CPG telephone conversation between Diane Salkie and Robert Law regarding IR FS status.

Correspondence

 On October 5, CPG requested update from EPA Region 2 (Region 2) regarding status of response from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on

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the submittal of the list of archived surplus specimens from the 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling program.

- On October 5, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding additional comments and responses to the September 30, 2020 revised Draft Final Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy Feasibility Study (IR FS) from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).
- On October 8 and 9, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding clarification on comments received from Region 2 and suggested revisions to the revised Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS on October 5.
- On October 14, CPG requested a schedule for receiving comments from Region 2 on the September 30, 2020 revised Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS and requested a call following Region 2's briefing with EPA Headquarters.
- . On October 15, CPG delivered the September Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On October 23, Region 2 provided comments to CPG on the September 30, 2020 revised Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On October 27, Region 2 subcontractor requested information from CPG on the Newark Bay model data used for initial conditions.
- On October 27, CPG provided proposed changes to the September 30, 2020 revised Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS in response to Region 2's Comment 9 from October 23.
- On October 28, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding potential dates for a teleconference on the disposal of archived surplus 2019 Current Conditions Biota specimen samples.
- On October 30, Region 2 requested additional information from CPG on the archived specimens from the 2019 Current Conditions Biota sampling program.

Work

- CPG continued reviewing and preparing responses to Region 2 comments on the September 30, 2020 revised Draft Final Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG completed validation of 2020 Current Conditions Small Volume Chemical Water Column Monitoring (SV CWCM) sample data.
- CPG continued preparing data summary reports for the 2020 Current Conditions surface water monitoring program.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

 On October 15, CPG uploaded Electronic Data Deliverables (EDDs) of validated data from the August 2020 Current Conditions SV CWCM event and final data from the fourth and fifth 2020 servicing of the Current Conditions Physical Water Column Monitoring (PWCM) moorings to the EPA SharePoint site.



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(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG will respond to comments on the revised Draft Final Upper 9-Mile IR FS delivered to Region 2 on September 30.
- CPG will respond to comments on the Draft 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling Data Summary Report.
- CPG will continue preparing data summary reports for the 2020 Current Conditions surface water monitoring program.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

 Work/travel safety restrictions associated with COVID-19 have impacted and delayed 2020 Current Conditions Biota Sampling field work

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard Potter

CPG Project Coordinator

Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel CC: William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel Lisa Baron, USACE Clay Stern, USFWS Reyhan Mehran, NOAA Jay Nickerson, NJDEP Beth Franklin, USACE Laura Kelmar, AECOM David Marabello, CDM-Smith Scott Kirchner, CDM-Smith